



YOUR ENERGY CONNECTION



National Electrical Safety Month

Make Safe Connections-Plug Into Electrical Safety!

One of the most important services provided to Rocky Mount Public Utilities customers is the sharing of electrical safety tips. Of all the hazards faced in daily life—at home, at school, and on the job—there is none quite so unforgiving as electricity. The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates there is an annual average of 165,380 electrical-related home structure fires, taking an average of 910 lives, injuring nearly 7,000 and causing nearly \$1.7 billion in property damage. How can consumers help protect themselves from injury and loss?

- *Check cracked or frayed cords, overheating cords and wall plates.*
- *Check outlets and circuits to be sure they aren't overloaded.*
- *Use extension cords only on a temporary basis, and be sure they are properly rated for their intended use.*
- *Test all smoke alarms and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) monthly.*
- *Replace smoke detector batteries twice a year.*
- *Never remove or bend the third prong of a plug to fit a two-slot outlet.*
- *Make sure light bulbs are the proper wattage and screwed in securely. Loose bulbs may overheat.*
- *Halogen floor lamps operate at much higher temperatures than a standard incandescent light bulb. Never place a halogen floor lamp where it could come in contact with draperies, clothing or other combustible materials.*
- *When using ladders, watch out for overhead wires and power lines.*
- *During an electrical storm, do not use appliances (i.e. hairdryers, toasters, radios) or telephones (except in an emergency).*
- *Do not take a bath or shower during an electrical storm.*
- *Keep batteries on hand for flashlights and radios in case of a power outage.*

*As always, when it comes to electricity, **better to take one too many precautions, than one too few.***

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control-

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control-

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control-

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The credit is calculated based on yearly consumption. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

**Call 972-1283 for more information .
Start your savings now!**



May 2006

Expanded Utility Dispatch Hours

Utility Dispatch hours are being expanded!

Any calls made between 6 am and 11 pm Monday through Friday will now be answered by our Utility Dispatchers. Calls after those hours will continue to be handled by the Police dispatch office. As always the number to call anytime to report utility emergencies and problems is 972-1278.

Customers are encouraged to call 972-1278 to report power outages, gas leaks, water and sewer emergencies, utility pole down, electrical line down or sagging, and any other electrical emergency.



What to Do if You Smell Gas

Call the Rocky Mount Gas Department immediately, anytime day or night, 972-1278.

If you detect a gas leak, we want to know right away. Don't try to locate the problem yourself. If the odor is inside your home or business, an emergency situation could exist, and you should evacuate as a safety measure.

Open a window and make sure you use no electrical switches. Extinguish any open flames and evacuate the area.

DON'T BE IN THE DARK...

The City of Rocky Mount provides an area light program that provides lighting services to your home. This can give you automatic dusk to dawn lighting every day for your safety and well being. For as little as \$14.83 which includes the light and a wooden pole you could reap the benefits of this service. An underground charge of \$4.70 may also be incurred. For additional information, please call 972-1281.